

**Organization of the Units
of the Austro-Hungarian Army
1918**

Infantry

Infantry Division:

- Division HQ (100/100)
- 2 Brigade HQ (20/15)
- 4 Infantry Regiments (3 bns ea) (12,520/1,024)
 - 192 Light Machine Guns
 - 96 Heavy Machine Guns
 - 8 Infantry Guns
 - 48 Trench Mortars
- Division Assault Battalion (600/?)
 - 12 Trench Mortars
- 2 March Companies (1,800/0)
- Artillery Brigade Staff (19/15)
- Field Gun Regiment (1,168/875)
 - 30 guns
- Field Howitzer Regiment (1,318/1,115)
 - 30 howitzers
- Heavy Field Artillery Regiment (864/665)
 - 20 (150mm howitzers or 104mm long range guns)
- Mountain Artillery Group (628/372)
 - (8 mountain guns & 4 mountain howitzers)
- 2 Pioneer or Sapper Companies (240/50)
- Divisional Telephone Section (74/25)
- Divisional Field Bakery (100/50)
- Divisional Supply Column (100/450)
- 4 Infantry Ammunition Columns (389/500)
- 4 Gun Ammunition Columns (545/650)
- 8 Howitzer Ammunition Columns (656/750)
- 8 Heavy Field Artillery Ammunition Columns)

Organization of an Austro-Hungarian Infantry Regiment August 1914

Staff Headquarters (9/82)

1st Battalion

Staff (3/19)

1st Company (16/262)

2nd Company (16/262)

3rd Company (16/262)

4th Company (16/262)

1st Machine Gun Section (2 Machine Guns) (1/36)

2nd Battalion

Staff (3/19)

5th Company (16/262)

6th Company (16/262)

7th Company (16/262)

8th Company (16/262)

Machine Gun Section (2 Machine Guns) (1/36)

3rd Battalion

Staff (3/19)

9th Company (16/262)

10th Company (16/262)

11th Company (16/262)

12th Company (16/262)

Machine Gun Section (2 Machine Guns) (1/36)

4th Battalion

Staff (3/19)

13th Company (16/262)

14th Company (16/262)

15th Company (16/262)

16th Company (16/262)

Machine Gun Section (2 Machine Guns) (1/36)

Note: Up to the end of 1917, however, owing to the predominance of trench warfare and partly to Austro-Hungary's dwindling resources in men, the organization of a regiment underwent many radical changes. In many battalions the companies were reduced from a four to a three platoon basis. Some battalions were even reported to have been reduced to a three company basis. The decrease in the number of rifles was compensated for by the increase of technical trench-warfare troops, machine guns, trench mortars, etc. This reorganization was, however, by no means universal. In general, it may be said to have applied only to such Common Army infantry regiments as were operating in the non-mountainous areas of Italy and the Eastern Theaters.

The main developments were as follows:

1.) The reduction of companies to a three-platoon basis, thereby reducing the strength of a regiment from over 4,000 to under 3,000 men.

2.) The conversion of the fourth platoon of a company into a light machine gun section (Handmaschinengewehrzug). This development was

still in the process of being effected and by June 1918 was about 50% completed, with only about half of the infantry companies having a light machine gun platoon.

3.) The number of machine guns was increased from two to eight per battalion.

4.) The formation of a regimental technical company consisting of pioneers, trench mortars, search lights and other special trench warfare troops.

5.) The formation of an assault company in each regiment, generally by grouping in an assault company one platoon from each battalion which had received special training in assault methods.

6.) The allocation of an infantry gun section to each infantry regiment.

Since the beginning of 1918 a more radical change occurred in the infantry. This was the reduction of all regiments from a four to a three battalion basis.

Organization of an Austro-Hungarian Infantry Regiment August 1918

Staff Headquarters (11/82)

1st Battalion

Staff (4/19)

1st, 2nd, 3rd & 4th Infantry Companies (20/600)

4 Light Machine Gun Sections (4/100) (one per company)

1st Machine Gun Company (5/160)

2nd Battalion

Staff (4/19)

5th, 6th 7th & 8th Infantry Companies (20/600)

4 Light Machine Gun Sections (4/100) (one per company)

2nd Machine Gun Company (5/160)

3rd Battalion

Staff (4/19)

9th, 10th, 11th, & 12th Infantry Companies (20/600)

4 Light Machine Gun Sections (4/100) (one per company)

3rd Machine Gun Company (5/160)

Attached:

Infantry Gun Section (1/24)

Assault Company (3/150)

Technical Company (3/120)

Independent Infantry Battalions:

Staff (8/36)
4 Companies (20/600)
Machine Gun Company (5/160)
4 Light Machine Gun Sections (4/140)
Infantry Gun Section (1/25)
Technical Section (3/94)

Army Assault Battalions:

Usually consisted of four companies of about 180 men each. In addition they had a *Nahkampfmittelabteilung* consisting of:

1 Machine Gun company (8 machine guns)
4 Minenwerfer Batteries (each with 3 Minenwerferzüge, one of which had 2 90mm mortars, one of 2-120mm mortars and one of 2-240mm mortars).
1 Flamethrower section (six flamethrowers, two each with ranges of 20, 30 and 65 meters)
1 Search light section (2 search lights)
1 Gas section

It is probable that the light machine guns (*Handmaschinengewehr*) were used exclusively in the assault units.

Division Assault Battalions:

4 companies of 150 men
16 Machine guns (four per company)
12 Minenwerfer (3 per company, 1-90mm, 1-120mm & 1-240mm mortars)
4 Flamethrowers

Regimental Assault Company:

120 men organized in four platoons of 30 men each.
4 Assault Patrols (Sturmpatrouillen) with 1 NCO & 10 men)
1 Labor Section of 20 men
1 Stretcher Bearer Section (1 NCO & 4 men)
2 Minenwerfer
1 Telephone Section (1 NCO & 4 men)

Machine Gun Units:

Each Infantry Machine Gun Company has four Züge (sections) with 2 machine guns. The guns had a crew of eight, of whom one or two were NCOs. They carried eight chambered revolvers (pistols) in addition to serving their machine gun. They had 5 officers and 157 soldiers each.

If partially equipped for mountain warfare they had 3 officers, 158 men, 36 pack mules, 6 draught horses, 1 riding horse, 2 tool wagons & 1 supply wagon. They had an allowance of 44,000 rounds of ammunition

per company or 5,500 rounds per gun.

If fully equipped for mountain warfare it had the same organization, but each wagon was replaced by two pack mules. They were: 4 mules with rations, 4 mules with cooks, 4 with tools, 10 with ammunition and 2 mules in reserve. The ammunition allowance per gun was reduced to 5,000. They had 3 officers, 182 men, and 44 pack mules.

If not equipped with mules, in the 1st Echelon 104 men were to carry the material. 6 men carried each machine gun, 8 carried the ammunition & 4 carried the shield, water-cooling apparatus, etc.

In the 2nd Echelon 32 men were to carry the ammunition, 8 per section. Each machine gun company was allotted 106 panniers in which the men carried their load.

Light Machine Gun sections (*Handmaschinengewehrzüge*) These were formed after the 10th Isonzo battle. Each section had two "*Schwarm*" with two light machine guns. It had 1 officer and 36 men.

Machine Guns:

Schwarzlose M.7 Machine Gun - Watercooled. Range up to 2,650 yards. water must be renewed after 1,200 rounds of rapid fire. Rate of fire 350-400 rounds per minute. Total weight 40 lbs.

Schwarzlose M. 7/12 Machine Gun - Same as M.7, but rate of fire 500 rounds per minute.

Light Machine Gun - when insufficient are available the M. 7/12 is modified with a bipod. Section carried 1,600 rounds and 4 grenades per man.

Cavalry

Cavalry Regiments:

- Staff (8/32/4/33)
- 2 Half Regiment Headquarters (4/14/0/14)
- 8 Squadrons (40/1,200/48/120)
- 2 Machine Gun Squadrons (5/150/15/80)
(8 machine guns each)
- 8 Light Machine Gun Sections (8/300/16/32)
- Technical Squadron (3/150/??/?)
- Assault Squadron (3/120/??/?)

The official strength of a squadron was 5 officers and 175 men, but it was rarely attained.

Artillery:

At the outbreak of the war (1914) the Austrian artillery consisted of:

28 k.u.k. Field Gun Regiments	6 btrys each,	6 guns per btry
8 k.k. Field Gun Regiments	6	5
8 k.u. Field Gun regiments	3-5	6
28 k.u.k. Field Howitzer Groups	4	6
8 k.k. Field Howitzer Groups	2	6
9 k.k. Horse Artillery Groups	3	4
9 k.u. Horse Artillery Groups	3	4
14 k.u.k. Heavy Howitzer Divisions	3	4

In 1917 the Austrian artillery consisted of:

42 k.u.k. Field Gun Regiments	5 btrys each,	6 guns per btry
12 k.k. Field Gun Regiments	5	5
11 k.u. Field Gun regiments	5	6
42 k.u.k. Field Howitzer Groups	6	6
12 k.k. Field Howitzer Groups	6	6
11 k.u. Field Howitzer Groups	6	6
10 k.k. Horse Artillery Groups	3 guns	4
	1 howitzers	4
2 k.u. Horse Artillery Groups	3 guns	4
	1 howitzers	4
37 k.u.k. Heavy Howitzer Divisions	2 guns	4
	2 howitzers	4
12 k.k. Heavy Howitzer Divisions	2 guns	4
	2 howitzers	4
9 k.u. Heavy Howitzer Divisions	2 guns	4
	2 howitzers	4

Field Gun Regiments were formed with five batteries, each of six guns and a sixth *Minenwerfer* battery of heavy *Minenwerfer* (four 220mm and four 120mm). They were organized as follows:

Headquarters

1st Battalion

1st Cannon Battery (3 Züge of 2 guns each)

2nd Cannon Battery (3 Züge of 2 guns each)

3rd Cannon Battery (3 Züge of 2 guns each)

2nd Battalion

4th Cannon Battery (3 Züge of 2 guns each)

5th Cannon Battery (3 Züge of 2 guns each)

6th *Minenwerfer* Battery (4 Züge of 2 *Minenwerfer* each)

They were generally equipped with 76.5 mm M.5 or M. 5/8 guns. Each battery had 7 officers, 167 men, and 139 horses. The regiment had 52 officers, 1,050 men and 875 horses.

Field Howitzer Regiments normally consisted of six batteries, each with six howitzers, though was often, in practice, reduced to five batteries of four guns.

Headquarters

1st Battalion

1st Howitzer Battery (3 Züge of 2 howitzers each)
2nd Howitzer Battery (3 Züge of 2 howitzers each)
3rd Howitzer Battery (3 Züge of 2 howitzers each)

2nd Battalion

4th Howitzer Battery (3 Züge of 2 howitzers each)
5th Howitzer Battery (3 Züge of 2 howitzers each)
6th Howitzer Battery (3 Züge of 2 howitzers each)

The howitzers were generally the 104mm light field howitzer M.99, M.14 or M.16. Each battery had 7 officers, 198 men and 198 horses. The regiment had 52 officers, 1,236 men and 1,109 horses.

Heavy Field Artillery Regiments were formed as follows:

Headquarters

1st Battalion

1st Howitzer Battery (2 Züge of 2 howitzers each)
2nd Howitzer Battery (2 Züge of 2 howitzers each)

2nd Battalion

3rd Howitzer Battery (or 104mm gun battery)
(2 Züge of 2 howitzers each)
4th Howitzer Battery (or 104mm gun battery)
(2 Züge of 2 howitzers each)

The regiments used the 104mm heavy guns M.14, M.15 and M.12/16. The heavy field howitzers were the 150mm M.14 and M.15. The regiment was reckoned as having 32 officers, 832 men, and 661 horses. The batteries had 6 officer, 199 men and 159 horses.

The Horse Artillery Regiments were organized with three batteries of 4-76.5mm guns each and one or two batteries of 104mm howitzers. The howitzer batteries were added in 1917. The batteries had 6 officers and 137 men. The regiment had an estimated 33 officers, 639 men and 714 horses.

Mountain Artillery, in the spring of 1918, was organized as follows:

Headquarters

1st Battalion

1st Mountain Gun Battery (3 Züge of 2 guns each)
2nd Mountain Gun Battery (3 Züge of 2 guns each)
3rd Mountain Howitzer Battery (3 Züge of 2 howitzers each)

2nd Battalion

4th Mountain Gun Battery (3 Züge of 2 guns each)
5th Mountain Gun Battery (3 Züge of 2 guns each)
6th Mountain Howitzer Battery (3 Züge of 2 howitzers each)

3rd Battalion

7th Mountain Gun Battery (3 Züge of 2 guns each)
8th Mountain Gun Battery (3 Züge of 2 guns each)
9th Mountain Howitzer Battery (3 Züge of 2 howitzers each)

The regimental staff had 3 officers and 11 men, the three battalion staffs had 18 officers and 96 men. The six mountain gun batter-

ies had 30 officers and 954 men. The two howitzer batteries had 12 officers and 512 men. The regiment had a total of 969 horses.

Trench Artillery

Granatenwerfer	Range
light 60-70mm	650 meters
Medium 90mm	330
Minenwerfer	
Light 90mm	300 (pneumatic)
Light 90mm	300
Light 90mm (Lanz)	300-450
Light 105mm	?
Medium 120mm	430
Medium 120mm	1,100 (pneumatic)
Medium 140mm	620
Medium 150mm	500 (pneumatic)
Medium 170mm	1,200
Medium 140mm	620
Heavy 200mm	1,800 (pneumatic)
Heavy 220mm	493-540
Heavy 280mm	500
Heavy 400mm	500

Allocation of trench mortars by the end of 1916 was as follows, but was "by no means universal":

- 1.) one section of Granatenwerfer and a section of light 80mm or 90mm minenwerfer to all independent infantry battalions - 4 pieces total.
- 2.) One section of Granatenwerfer and two sections of 80mm or 90mm minenwerfer to all infantry regiments - six pieces total.
- 3.) Allotment to a division of two sections of 120mm and two sections of 220mm minenwerfer - total 8 pieces. Independent brigades received one section of 120mm and one of 200mm minenwerfers, four pieces total.
- 4.) The allotment of minenwerfer sections, numbered 500 and upwards, was at the disposal of divisional or higher command.

In addition to battalion and regimental trench mortars, a regimental sector may also have an allotment of mortars assigned to it from the divisional HQ or even higher command. All such weapons forming a trench mortar group are under the command of an infantry subaltern attached to brigade HQ.

An allotment of medium and heavy trench mortars was made during 1918 to the artillery.

- 1.) The sixth battery of most field regiments was formed of 3-4 sections of 150mm pneumatic or 220mm minenwerfer. The commanders of artillery groups often receive an allotment of trench mortars from the stock at the disposal of the divisional HQ or higher command.
- 2.) Batteries of medium or heavy trench mortars have also been identified with fortress artillery.

Each mortar kept the following number of rounds in the immediate vicinity of a mortar:

Heavy	10-15 rounds
Medium	20-25
Light (including Granatwerfer)	30-40

British General Staff, Handbook of the Austro-Hungarian Army in War, June 1918, War Office June 1918.

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